THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The Government proposes to strengthen and improve Doordarshan coverage in the North East Region through a special package. The size and extent of the package will depend upon availability of Financial Resources and inter-se priorities.

Complaints by Film Makers of Mumbai

2344. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several film makers of Mumbai have lodged complaints with the police over extortion threats;

(b) whether recently Ajit Dewani, Secretary to film stars was shot dead; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to protect the film world from the grip of mafia terror?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c): "Police" is a State subject as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. Nevertheless, in order to facilitate a greater flow of institutional finance to the film industry, Notification dated 16.10.2000 was issued by the Ministry of Finance, whereunder the "Entertainment Industry including films" has been specified as an approved activity for accessing finance under the IDBI Act. The Industrial Development Bank of India and the Reserve Bank of India have also evolved guidelines to enable banks and financial institutions to fund proposals for financing of film production.

Proposal for Transforming the PCI

2345. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for transforming the Press Council of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

International Film Festival of India in Bangalore

2346. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to organise the 32nd International Film Festival of India in Bangalore;

(b) if so, when will it be held;

(c) the estimated expenditure for organising the above festival;

(d) the amount being spent by Government and the amount agreed to be spent by Karnataka Government;

(e) the number of delegates expected to attend the proposed festival; and

(f) the arrangements being made to organise the above festival in Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) From 10th to 20th October, 2001.

(c) and (d) A Budget provision of Rs.2.75 crores has been made in Sanctioned Budget Grant 2001-2002 for being incurred by the Central Government through Directorate of Film Festivals. The Government of Karnataka is likely to commit about Rs. 2.00 crores.

(e) About 3,000 delegates are expected to attend the festival.

(f) To conduct the festival successfully, an Organising Committee has been formed comprising representatives of the Central and State Government and important film personalities from different regions. Nine Sub-Committees have also been formed to decide upon the various issues concerning the festival. A Festival Coordination Committee of Central and State Government has also been set up. Some meetings of these Committees have already been organised.